

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County to extend temporary permitting office on Pine Island and update hours of operation
All temp locations help residents apply for permits for hurricane-damaged buildings

Fort Myers, FL, Oct. 28, 2024 – Lee County Government is announcing an extension of the temporary permitting office on Pine Island to further assist residents to apply for permits to repair existing buildings damaged by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

The Lee County Department of Community Development initially opened the temporary office three times a week at the Pine Island Public Library on Oct. 16. The county will continue the service on Fridays through Nov. 22. Note: The location will be open Tuesday, Oct. 29, and Wednesday, Oct. 30, before transitioning to Fridays in November.

Staff are readily accessible to help residents navigate the permit process 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on these dates, with the last customer sign-in being at 2:30 p.m. The library is located at 10701 Russell Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922.

In addition to the Pine Island site, the county has two, one-day temporary permit events:

- Boca Grande: Unit 6 – Railroad Plaza, 480 East Railroad, Boca Grande, FL 33921
 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31; last customer sign-in will be 2:30 p.m.
- Island Park area: Rayma C. Page Elementary School, 17000 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers, FL 33908
 - 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 2; last customer sign-in will be 11:30 a.m.

All remote locations have staff readily accessible to help residents navigate the permit process.

The county may add additional temporary, remote permitting offices in other unincorporated Lee County locations as needed. Monitor www.leegov.com/storm.

Residents must live in these areas to use the temporary locations. Residents acting as their own contractor can submit permit applications, have them reviewed and – in some cases – issued from the remote office. The applicants need their address, a description of the damage, estimated cost to repair, material cost documentation, and, if available, a floor plan.

Hired contractors are asked to continue to use the existing electronic permitting process. Residents seeking a full demolition or complete replacement of a structure will need to visit the main Department of Community Development permitting office at 1500 Monroe St., Fort Myers, FL 33091, for a permit.

Lee County Government is reminding residents in unincorporated areas to pull permits for work on their homes to repair storm damage caused by Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton.

Any unincorporated Lee County residents or businesses within the Special Flood Hazard Area with any damage to their homes or businesses, including water intrusion and all drywall repairs, must obtain a permit for all repairs. Email FIRMInfo@leegov.com for assistance with permit requirements and resources, and be sure to include the following information:

- Contact information
- Property address
- Type of damage
- Height of the water that entered the home

Residents also can find more information at www.leegov.com/dcd/BldPermitServ/disaster-recovery. Or they can call 239-533-8948.

It is a priority of the Lee Board of County Commissioners following storm events to help the communities most impacted – and part of commissioners' goal is to ensure residents understand the National Flood Insurance Program requirements that permits are necessary for even minor repairs. This is particularly critical for residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area, which encompasses much of unincorporated Lee County. Pulling proper permits helps ensure the county's compliance with NFIP, and that in turn ensures residents are afforded the benefits of the program such as eligibility for federal flood insurance and certain types of federal disaster aid.

For additional information and updates on any future temporary permit office locations, visit www.leegov.com/storm.

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